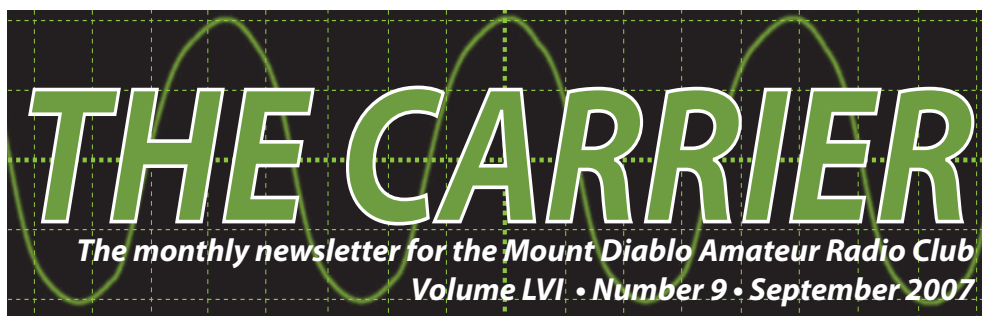
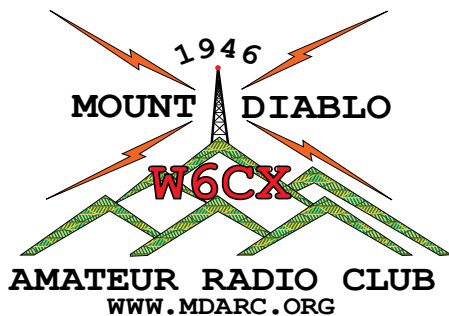




September Meeting

Friday, September 15—7:30 pm

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA*

Meeting Program

Gary Elliot, WA6KCP, is coming to present the amateur radio club aboard the SS Red Oak Victory, NY6CL/K6YVM.

V.E. Testing

*Prior to the meeting from 6–7 PM.
Email Ron, K6XC, at rluttringer@earthlink.net for more information.*

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President's QRM

by Marty Heyman, W6MDH



Turmoil in the Bay Area! As discussed at last meeting, many repeater owners got letters last month telling them to make adjustments to their power down between 11dB and 53dB. In pretty much all cases that means taking their 440 machines down below a milli-Watt. Jay Caldis (KT6Y), our club station trustee, got a letter saying we needed to reduce our power by 50dB from our original power output. It seems like a polite way of asking them to go off the air without actually saying so, but we can continue to put out signals at that low power level. MDARC has decided to keep our 440 repeater up and running at this low level to protect our coordination and see what happens.

A group from the Technical Committee went up the hill last week and did a bunch of things. Originally, we were going to take yet another look at the cabinets and

see what could be moved around and cleaned up. Jim Tittle (N6SOE) wanted to tweak the ATV gear. Iain McDonnell (K6IAM) wanted to get a feel for the equipment and learn about our setup, Trevor Hall (WA6JAU) and Trevor Raty (KG6MDW) worked on the 440 repeater. Jordan (the dog) and I played with the computer and the repeater controller. Iain helped me "crack the code" and we've not got a complete dump of the repeater controller's contents, a major step in learning how to get it ready for the 2m voter(s). All in all it was a great trip up the hill.

The Public Service opportunities continue. I'll be working the Bike



Iain and Trevor check out the repeater equipment

Against the Odds event mid-September. We use the 2m CCRA system here in Orinda and I can work my position with my little 1.5W HT on low power. This event is great fun for a good cause and puts amateur radio in front of a lot of active life-style folks.

Please, get out there and support the community events like this one. It gives us excellent publicity and it's usually quite a lot of fun.

Editor's Exciter

by Jeremiah R. Blasi, K6BQ

It has been another busy summer. Now it's over, and time to get back into the fall routine. As a school administrator, I am excited about seeing growth in the young people with whom I work each day!

On the radio front, getting back into the "school" routine will allow me to get back to more operation. 40 meter CW in the evenings will be fun to work once again! And, of course, Pacifcon is coming once again; I'm looking forward to it!

Thanks to all who helped with this issue. I enjoy having the problem of squeezing everything in! 73 de K6BQ.

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730



The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@mdarc.org or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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MDARC Club Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2007

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA

President Marty Heyman, W6MDH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were about 55 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Carrier.

Treasurer Don Anthony N6SIA, reported that the treasury totals were \$46,544.92 in CDs and \$1449.80 in checking.

Jim Brunk N6BHX, announced that there would be RACES training tomorrow morning at the Salvation Army Center covering net management. Attendees are asked to bring their handhelds.

The VE's results were 6 passed the Tech exam, 3 passed the General exam and 3 passed the Extra exam. Future classes are on tap.

Dick Brown KT6X, reported that Pacifcon had filled the exhibit booths, and that preparations were going well. Pacifcon tickets were available at the meeting.

East Bay Section Manager Ti-Michelle Connelly NJ6T, recommended that hams check the EB website for information.

Marty announced that nominations for club officers would be needed at the next meeting to provide time to vote on

them. Also, he noted that there was an immediate critical need for a Membership Chairman.

Lauren Styles WA6CIE, announced that on Wed. nite 8/22 the TV Food channel would present chefs trying to work with Salvation Army canteens to feed a couple of thousand.

Marty recessed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Marty reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and presented a video by the Moraga/Orinda Fire Dept. on a recent multi-agency training exercise at Camp Parks, with segments on amateur communications assisting.

Marty, Trevor Raty KG6MDW, and Jim Tittle K6SOE, discussed and answered questions on the 440 repeater situation. The primary user (military) has required that the output be attenuated to the extent that the present set up would be useless. The Tech Committee may attempt to crossband the output, and may move ILRP and Echolink to 2m. These proposed solutions are subject to change.

The drawing was won by Don Rickard W8BQD.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

ARRL Elections

This month, ARRL members will have the opportunity to vote on who will be the Vice Director for the Pacific Division for the next 3 year term. On this and the next page, you will find statements from the two candidates running for this position.

I am Rob Brownstein, K6RB. June marked my 49th year of active ham radio operations. During those years, I operated CW, phone, and digital modes. I ragchewed, chased DX and participated in various contests. I operated in Field Day and joined local amateur radio clubs in the various places that I've lived and operated. In other words, I have enjoyed a broad swath of all the things that ham radio operators do.

All of you know there's a lot more to ham radio than simply emergency communications, and while EC is a wonderful service to our communities, it is just one aspect of our hobby. To be fully represented, you need someone who knows what you do, whether it's HF or VHF operation, DXing, contesting, ragchewing, or experimenting. And I've done them all.

Who is better suited to serve the diverse needs of today's Pacific Division amateurs? Do you want someone who only does one thing and reads about the others? My opponent and I are both good people, and we want to do what's best for this division. We just come at it from different places. He's a specialist; and I am a well-rounded generalist. If you want broad rather than narrow, please give me your vote.



Pacificon 2007

Dick Brown, KT6X

You are probably one of the hams that really looks forward to PACIFICON every year and maybe you are one of the people that makes it happen. Assuming you are, I hope you will let that poor uniformed friend of yours know what it is an how much fun we have.

The all-day Antenna Forum on Friday, October 19 is going to be the single best place one can go to get comprehensive information of amateur antennas. The weekend will bring some thought provoking information on all kinds of amateur radio subjects. I am always amazed at the quality of the presentations that the experts in our Division bring to the convention.

With the Exhibit Hall sold out again, we will have every major manufacturer of Amateur Radio Equipment there along with some great purchasing discounts on equipment. I know some of you have been putting off that buying decision until PACIFICON. You will be glad you did.

If you know of some friend who is thinking about becoming a ham, tell him about the class on Saturday, 10/20 where he or she can walk out with a license in his hand at 5:00 pm. Maybe you are ready for your license upgrade. The VE's will be there Saturday and Sunday morning to give you the test.

The kick-off breakfast on Saturday with Chris Imlay, W3KD will bring you totally up-to-date on what your friends in the Congress and FCC are doing in regards to Amateur Radio. Saturday night at the Banquet, Kay Craigie, First Vice President of ARRL will give us a great update on ARRL activities. The banquet meal will be Marriott Hotels best.

Yes, the weekend of October 19, 20, and 21 is a must-attend at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon. As usual, there will be a swap meet starting at 6:00 AM on Sunday for those looking for "good deals." If you need more details on this fun weekend, or if you need to buy your tickets, go to PACIFICON.ORG and get the latest.

Want to Help?

Help check tickets at the door and get the following benefits:

- free admission
- see your fellow hams
- have a choice shift of 90 minutes

Contact Paul, N6JOX, at paulr33@earthlink.net to volunteer!

ARRL Elections

(Continued from page 2)

Candidate Statement: Andy Oppel, N6AJO, for Pacific Division Vice Director:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Vice-Director since 2003, which included being a member of several ARRL committees:

1) The National Emergency Response Preparedness Committee (NERPC), which delivered a comprehensive study with specific recommendations to improve our readiness to respond to widespread emergencies.

Within the NERPC, I chaired the database group and personally wrote detailed specifications for an ARES registration database, which was subsequently built by ARRL staff and is now ready for use.

2) Since 2006 I have chaired the Technology Task Force, which has reviewed technical development work done by volunteer working groups and presented recommendations to the Board of Directors.

3) In 2003-04 I served on the ARESCOMM Committee, which presented recommendations for ARES digital communications to the Board of Directors at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Although I work all modes and an occasional contest, as you can see I have a passion for emergency communications not only because it serves our communities well, but also because it is the best way to justify amateur radio to those who would like to take our spectrum away from us.

Professionally I am Principal Data Architect for Ceridian, have taught at U.C. Extension for 25 years, and am the author of two published books on database technology. I frequently offer the ARRL advice on information technology issues.

Vice-Directors cannot vote or address the floor at board meetings, so our influence is through background discussions and active listening. I know the process well and can make your ideas and opinions heard.

Andy Oppel

andy.oppel@gmail.com

<http://www.andyoppel.com/N6AJO>

ATV Adventure

John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Tom O'Hare, W6ORG, the Ham Television guru, took a few pix that I took off his TV screen while mobile on Friday, July 20th, on the way up to the Vineman Half Ironman triathlon in Windsor.



Tom said: "I was surprised how well the Mt. Diablo ATV repeater does given the rolling hills in wine country. I did note that the color would go in and out as I moved the antenna slightly which I think can be explained by the A to D converter in the LCD TV being more sensitive to multipath. The signals themselves were quite strong and would have shown up better on an analog TV with a CRT. But for

simplicity, weight, portability, the little 7" Insignia TV does a nice job on road trips or monitoring during public service events.

By the way, I did finish the triathlon—barely. It got up in the high 90's that day!



K3ZJJ's test pattern received non-line-of-sight in Yountville



Text inset: Tom O'Hare with his portable ATV receiver

Reception of W6CX



K3ZJJ (the author) in his garage "shack"



John, WB6CZX in his hamshack

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2007

Fuddruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

President Marty Heyman, W6MDH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Other Board Members present: Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX; Treasurer Don Anthony, N6SIA; Directors Dave Gordon, N6SWE; Trevor Hall, WA6JAU; and EC Bob Green, K6GD.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published online and in the Carrier.

Treasurer Don Anthony noted a checkbook balance of \$1,449.80 and CDs totalling \$46,544.92. He reported that the door prize tickets covered the cost of the prize, and that the refreshments income slightly exceeded their cost.

Marty reported that:

- the Membership Chairman is resigning.
- a nominating committee is needed in advance of the Sept. meeting. There will be the

following positions for election: two Directors, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. A personal letter to each member was suggested.

Bob reported that:

- training will be held Sat., Aug. 18 in the Salvation Army building, and cover message handling and net control practices.

Announcements:

- The Tech Committee reported no change in the status of Vollmer; a possible Vaca site located for a voter; intermittent ATV problem. All of the above to be further checked.
- Pacifcon tickets sold: 77 general admission, 25 antenna seminar, 31 buffet.

Marty adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

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MDARC Election Notes

Officer election is once again upon us. We will be voting on all offices of the club. This year, we are in definite need of someone to run for President, Vice President, and two Director positions. Other offices include Treasurer and Secretary.

Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office. New members are more than welcome to participate—coaching is available! If you would like to nominate/volunteer, please contact Marty Heyman, W6MDH.

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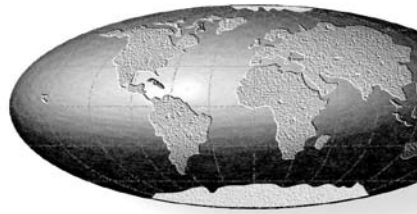
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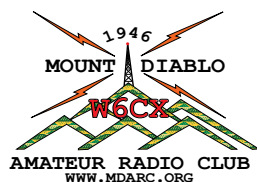
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September Events

September 21 7:30 pm **MDARC Monthly Meeting**
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette

September 28 **October Carrier Deadline**

October 1 7:00 pm **MDARC Board Meeting**
Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek



The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org



Next meeting: September 21—SS Red Oak Victory
